

it can be approved in the immediate future. It would have tremendous significance with our President being there at this present time.

So I have no objection to the request by my friend from Oklahoma.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader withdraws his reservation.

Without objection, the unanimous consent request is agreed to.

The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise to express my support for the effort that my colleague from Missouri is making. When the Senator from Missouri was in the House, he was chairman of the House Small Business Committee when I was chairman of the Senate Small Business Committee. We took great pride in the tremendous contribution that small business made to our State, both in terms of the jobs they produced as well as the tremendous boost that the small businesses were able to provide to our productive sector.

Again, I commend the Senator from Missouri for the action he took last year to make sure that these minority small business contractors could be qualified. This will go a long way toward easing the procedure to make sure that minority small business operations have a chance to get in on the work of the highway bill. It is very important that we move forward with our highway construction, and having the minority small businesses providing jobs in their community and representing the communities that will be served is a very worthy goal.

This small measure would have a big impact. So I urge the adoption of this amendment.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Who yields time?

Mr. INHOFE. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

All time has expired. The question is on agreeing to the amendment. The yeas and nays have been ordered and the clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. The following Senators were necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN), the Senator from Iowa

(Mr. HARKIN), and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CORNYN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 89, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 116 Leg.]

YEAS—89

Akaka	Dole	McConnell
Allard	Domenici	Mikulski
Allen	Durbin	Murray
Baucus	Ensign	Nelson (FL)
Bayh	Feingold	Nelson (NE)
Bennett	Feinstein	Obama
Bingaman	Frist	Pryor
Bond	Graham	Reed
Boxer	Grassley	Reid
Brownback	Gregg	Roberts
Bunning	Hagel	Rockefeller
Burns	Hatch	Salazar
Burr	Hutchison	Santorum
Byrd	Inhofe	Schumer
Cantwell	Inouye	Sessions
Carper	Isakson	Shelby
Chafee	Jeffords	Smith
Chambliss	Johnson	Snowe
Clinton	Kennedy	Specter
Coburn	Kerry	Stabenow
Coleman	Kohl	Stevens
Collins	Landrieu	Sununu
Conrad	Lautenberg	Talent
Cornyn	Leahy	Thomas
Corzine	Levin	Thune
Craig	Lieberman	Vitter
Crapo	Lincoln	Voinovich
DeMint	Lott	Warner
DeWine	Lugar	Wyden
Dodd	Martinez	

NOT VOTING—11

Alexander	Dorgan	McCain
Biden	Enzi	Murkowski
Cochran	Harkin	Sarbanes
Dayton	Kyl	

The amendment (No. 600) was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period of morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF END OF WWII IN EUROPE

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, yesterday was the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe. It was also, of course, Mother's Day. My speechwriter Ann O'Donnell shared a letter with me her grandfather wrote that is a fitting remembrance of both occasions. It is a letter from a young Army private, 12th Armored Division, named Glenn H. Waltner. Stationed in Germany at the time, he wrote to his mother, Mrs. J. J. Waltner in Freeman, SD.

The letter is postmarked 60 years ago today, May 9, 1945, though it was written, actually, on May 3, 1945. It reads as follows:

Dearest Mother,
Mother's Day is only a short time away again. Since we cannot be together, I'm taking this opportunity to thank you for being my mother. You've always been all that any son could ever ask a mother to be—kind, pa-

tient, loving, considerate, and forgiving. Though Mother's Day comes but once yearly, don't think you're not appreciated the other [days of the year]. I thank God daily for the privilege of having been your son.

[I] am well—have been moving so swiftly and far that mail still hasn't reached us, nor can we mail letters often. Shaved today for the first time in a long while and haven't had my hair cut for months, I guess. Hear peace rumors daily, but apparently, the Germans don't know a thing about it.

Happy Mother's Day—Love from your son, Glenn.

Mr. President, I imagine that many hundreds of letters just like this went out 60 years ago to mothers all across our country. Letters went out as they waited patiently, praying for the safe return of their dear, beloved sons serving overseas during the war. Fortunately, just a few short days after this particular letter was written, the rumors about peace did become a reality as Hitler's Germany surrendered to Allied forces, bringing to an end almost 6 years of brutal, bloody battle and an unparalleled threat to mankind in the Nazi's attempt to destroy the Jewish race.

When I think about all those who served during World War II, I am reminded of a famous speech in William Shakespeare's play "Henry V." The title character attempts to rally his men with a St. Crispin Day speech, a moving appeal to soldiers facing a vastly superior French force. Shakespeare's Henry assures his men of their place in history, creating the bond that links them all. An excerpt from that speech reads as follows:

And Crispin Crispian shall ne'er go by,
From this day to the ending of the world,
But we in it shall be remember'd;
We few, we happy few, we band of brothers.

Stephen Ambrose, of course, in his book, "Band of Brothers," also wrote about this fraternal bond that connects all warriors to one another. Ambrose documented the journey of the men of Easy Company, E Company, 506th Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, through their journey through World War II. While the men of the 506th seem at times lost in the confusion and tragedy of war, Ambrose ends his book with a poignant reflection on what they encountered during the war. He wrote as follows:

They found combat to be ugliness, destruction, and death, and hated it. Anything was better than the blood and carnage, the grime and filth, the impossible demands made on the body—anything, that is, except letting down their buddies. They also found in combat the closest brotherhood they ever knew. They found selflessness. They found they could love the other guy in their foxhole more than themselves. They found that in war, men who love life would give their lives for them.

Over the last couple of years, my staff and I have had the great privilege of getting to know a group of World War II veterans who, like the men of Easy Company, are, indeed, a band of brothers. They are a band of selfless, patriotic, quiet heroes who to this day, 60 years after the end of the war, remain in close contact, staying in touch